AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of estimating ~~the~~ a relevance of a document with respect to a concept ~~(12)~~ ~~comprises~~ comprising:
    calculating ~~(32)~~ a relevance function of the concept ~~(12)~~ with respect to said document ~~on the basis of~~ based upon a known predetermined set of concepts in a knowledge base that are related to that concept by different semantic links, said set of concepts being called a semantic neighborhood of the concept ~~(12)~~,
and ~~is characterized in that~~, if the document is considered to be relevant with respect to the concept: ~~there is calculated~~ calculating ~~(42)~~ an ambiguity function of said concept ~~(12)~~ in said document, which ambiguity function is different from the relevance function, ~~said calculation being an~~ estimation related to by estimating the presence of different meanings of the concept in the document, and marking the document considered to be relevant with a result of the calculation of the ambiguity function ~~is associated (44) with the document considered to be relevant~~.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept ~~(12)~~, wherein the relevance function measures ~~the~~ a presence, in the document, of the concept ~~(12)~~ and of concepts from the semantic neighborhood ~~(16)~~ of that concept ~~(12)~~ in the document.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept (12), wherein, when the semantic neighborhood of the concept (12) includes a plurality of sets of concepts linked to different meanings of the concept concerned, called semantic clouds ~~(16) with different meanings~~, the ambiguity function compares the presence of concepts ~~(12)~~ belonging to a semantic cloud ~~(16)~~ corresponding to a predetermined meaning of the concept ~~(12)~~ with the presence of concepts belonging to different semantic clouds ~~(16)~~.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept ~~(12)~~, wherein the presence of each of the concepts belonging to the different semantic clouds ~~(16)~~ is weighted by a predetermined coefficient.

5. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 4 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept ~~(12)~~, including a preliminary step of detecting ambiguous concepts ~~(18)~~, i.e. concepts having a plurality of semantic clouds ~~(16)~~ with different meanings in the same semantic neighborhood.

2

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept (12), wherein, during the preliminary detection step, two concepts are considered to be ambiguous (18A) if they are linked to each other by at least two different semantic links (14).

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5 or claim 6 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept (12), wherein, during the preliminary detection step, a concept is considered to be ambiguous (18B) if it is linked to at least two semantic clouds (16) with different meanings.

8. (currently amended) A method according to any one of claims 5 to 7 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept (12), wherein, the concept (12) belonging to a knowledge base (10) obtained by merging a first knowledge base (10A) with a second knowledge base (10B), the preliminary step of detecting ambiguous concepts is executed during merging.

9. (currently amended) A method according to claim 8 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept (12), wherein, during the ambiguous concept detection step, a concept from the first knowledge base (10A) is considered to be ambiguous (18C) if it is linked by a new link to another concept from the first knowledge base (10A).

10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 8 or claim 9 of estimating the relevance of a document with respect to a concept (12), wherein, during the ambiguous concept detection step, a concept from the first knowledge base (10A) is considered to be ambiguous (18C) if it is linked to a semantic cloud of the second knowledge base (10B).